

**TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE**



FISCAL NOTE

HB 20

January 7, 2009

SUMMARY OF BILL: Creates the Office of Noncustodial Parent Advocacy pilot project within all juvenile courts and all courts exercising juvenile court jurisdiction within at least one county in each grand division to provide assistance to unwed non-custodial parents in obtaining visitation rights to their children. The act takes effect upon becoming law with the pilot project in effect July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2012.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

Increase State Expenditures - \$1,000,000 FY09-10 through FY11-12

Increase Local Revenue – Not Significant

Increase Local Expenditures – Not Significant

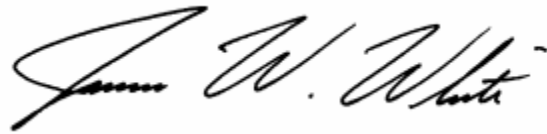
Assumptions:

- Currently, the Administrative Office of the Courts, in conjunction with the Department of Human Services, receives a federal grant for a project demonstrating the impact of collections, enforcement actions and adversarial proceedings of providing services to promote parental relationships, paternal participation, contact and support to never-married parents in the child support system in both child support order establishment and enforcement cases in the 11th, 20th, and 26th judicial districts. The total federal grant for the three-year project is \$1,000,000.
- Similar resources and personnel will be needed to implement the proposed project resulting in an increase in state expenditures of \$1,000,000.
- These expenditures will include a pro se facilitator in each of the three counties, a parenting coordinator in each of the three counties, a statewide coordinator for the project and a contractor to evaluate the project.
- The \$1,000,000 will also include funding for mediation costs, supervised visitation costs, attorney fees, filing fees, and costs for providing pro se classes.

- Any cost for developing the form petitions can be accommodated within existing resources without an increased appropriation or reduced reversion.
- Any increase to local court caseloads can be accommodated within existing resources.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "J" and "W".

James W. White, Executive Director

/kml